



ASSEMBLY MEMBER

Das Williams
REPRESENTING THE 35th DISTRICT



Thank you for your letter opposing SB 162 by Senators Anderson and Wyland. As you know, SB 162 would prohibit any state agency from opposing a fee-to-trust land acquisition application for the purpose of housing, environmental protection or cultural preservation.

The fee-to-trust application proceeding is very complicated and lengthy process. I firmly believe any legislation that would limit the state's role or obligation in this process must be vetted by the whole body of the Legislature. SB 162 is particularly worrisome because the bill was amended only very recently with language that completely removes the state's ability to have a say on fee-to-trust applications. Since this occurred after the bill moved through the Senate, it missed a full review by one house of the Legislature. This maneuver effectively cut the public debate in half on an extremely important topic.

I know there are larger questions, and I have been a consistent supporter of good planning and open space preservation. I will continue to research those policy questions, but without proper review, I will oppose SB 162 on process issues alone.

Please continue to keep me apprised of your views on this or any other state issue of importance to you.

Sincerely,

DAS WILLIAMS
Assemblymember, 35th District